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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMEN
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SUBJECT: "The Kitchen Sink"--Information from Extension home management specialist, U. S. Department of Agriculture

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If you're building a new home...or even if you're just remodeling the kitchen in your present place...the chances are you're planning to install a new sink.

Though we face it every day--and many times a day--a lot of us are not satisfied with the kitchen sinks we now have. Anyone who's put in her stint of washing dishes knows how important it is to have a sink that's comfortable to work at and convenient to use. Only the rankest kitchen amateur would say, "Any old sink will do!"

On the other hand...Extension specialists in home management tell us that the most beautiful and expensive sinks are not always the most efficient.

It's the wise homemaker who buys the kitchen sink to fit her special needs. She keeps in mind...of course...that the daughters in the family will be learning t do the dishes and helping with work in the kitchen too.

And one thing she checks on first is the size. Many kitchen sinks are too small. There isn't room to wash and drain the dishes in them. The sink may also be too shallow. Water sloshes out on the floor.

Then there's the drain board. Now, not all homemakers like the cabinet-type attached metal drain board. But all homemakers and the specialists alike agree there should be space on both sides of the sink to place dishes and pots and pans.

If you're getting a sink with an attached drain board...do get the drain board on the side that's convenient for you. If you move your work from right to left when you wash dishes...get a sink with the drain board on the left side. If you move your work from left to right...then you'll want the drain board on the right

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side. The specialists recommend a counter of thirty-two inches on one side of the sink and thirty-six inches on the other side.

Something else to keep in mind...particularly if you're buying a ready-built cabinet sink...is the working height. Check to see that it's comfortable for you. High enough so that you won't have to bend over when you wash dishes. If necessary you can add "toe" base...that is build the cabinet up to add height. But if the sink is too high...do not buy it.

Of course...if you're not buying the cabinet type sink...you can decide on the height when you have the sink installed.

If you're putting a sink into a remodeled home...you may have the same problem a farm family ran into. Their kitchen had so many windows there just wasn't any wall space for the new sink. So this resourceful family just put the sink in the middle of the kitchen floor. Then they built cupboards on either side...the same height as the sink. The tops of the cupboard provided work space. And this proved a convenient arrangement...a kind of partition between the cooking and dishwashing centers of the kitchen and the dining center.

How much you pay for a sink will depend on your budget. It will also depend on how much you feel is justified in view of other conveniences you need and want to add to your home.

There's a wide price range in sinks. But whether you buy an expensive, completely equipped sink...or get a good secondhand bargin that costs you very little ...do keep in mind your own kitchen needs as to the size, the arrangement for the use of the sink center...and the height you install the sink...to avoid fatigue.

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